

Message

From: Jones, Ashley [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=EECD65C891474D8C8EAB354DDEAF6BA8-JONES, ASHL]
Sent: 6/2/2016 7:41:10 PM
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Subject: News Update: States Fault EPA Atrazine Review (Inside EPA)

States Fault EPA Atrazine Review

Inside EPA

May 31, 2016

<http://insideepa.com/news-briefs/states-fault-epa-atrazine-review>

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is criticizing an EPA risk assessment of atrazine, a widely-used herbicide, arguing risk documents the agency posted to a public website in April and quickly withdrew rely on flawed studies, and that the agency has not followed proper procedure.

In a [May 27 letter](#) to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, NASDA urges EPA to “take immediate corrective actions” to address the agency’s April 29 posting of an ecological risk assessment of atrazine that spurred advocates’ calls to ban the substance, arguing EPA had determined atrazine is likely harming most species of plants and animals.

“NASDA is extremely concerned with EPA’s actions and requests the Agency take the immediate following measures in an attempt to correct the misinformation and mitigate the potential impact EPA’s oversights may have on agricultural producers and the public’s confidence in the Agency’s science-based regulatory framework,” the letter says.

In the letter, NASDA urges EPA to remove from its ecological review document any data or findings based on studies not conducted in accordance with Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) guidelines, and provide written justification for using studies deemed flawed by a 2012 FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel.

NASDA also asks EPA to clarify, in writing, that the risk assessment document EPA posted to a public website and then pulled back is merely a draft and not intended for public dissemination.

EPA’s handling of the atrazine review, NASDA argues, fails to comply with its FIFRA obligations and undermines public confidence in the agency’s process for assessing pesticide risks. The group calls atrazine an essential tool for farmers with a safety record backed by 7,000 scientific studies, conducted over the past 50 years.

EPA is currently conducting FIFRA-required registration reviews of atrazine and other substances, including glyphosate, the world's most commonly-used herbicide. EPA toxics chief Jim Jones told a recent meeting of agency pesticide advisors that the April 29 release of pesticide risk assessment documents was inadvertent.

The release involved documents supporting the registration reviews of both atrazine and glyphosate.

Soon after the release, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) argued, in a May 3 statement, that EPA's "Refined Ecological Risk Assessment of Atrazine" document found the substance is likely harming species, including mammals birds and amphibians.

CBD argued that the EPA assessment found atrazine causes reproductive harm to mammals and birds in real-world scenarios, and that water monitoring data has shown atrazine levels above those needed to kill an amphibian.

Environmental groups, including CBD, have long argued that both atrazine and glyphosate cause harms to listed species. EPA and federal wildlife officials are scheduled in the coming years to review both substances using a new federal process for assessing risks to listed species under the Endangered Species Act.

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